Reclamation of Alkali land in Gujarat

2792. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released Grants to Gujarat for reclamation of Alkali *(Usar)* land;

(b) if so, the details of grants given during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the Usar land reclaimed in the State during the said period, year-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 208.80 lakh as Central share grants was released to the State of Gujarat on matching share basis under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Reclamation of Alkali Soil in the year 1995-96 for the districts of Ahmednagar, Kheda and Mehasana and the same was utilized for reclamation of Alkali land. The year-wise Alkali land reclaimed and expenditure incurred in past five years are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Area Reclaimed (in ha.)	Expenditure
1997-98	997.55	61.45
1998-99	515.00	101.45
1999-2000	2,015.00	56.94
2000-2001	1,500.00	130.04
2001-2002	1,135.80	85.00
TOTAL:	6,163.35	434.58